

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,

I submit to you my written testimony in consideration and support of the bill before you for your approval.

My name is Linda Lee Hickerson, and I am looking for your support for Bill HB1398 is entitled Victoria, Scottie, Ashleigh & Yader's law. My great nephew Scott "Scottie" Broadfoot, Jr. was a victim of fentanyl poisoning who died at the age of 21. Gone too soon, dearly loved, missed and never forgotten. Sadly, this is the first of many testimonies you will read and hear today, so I pray you understand how desperately we need this law so that our law enforcement, prosecutors and judges can have the support they need to be able to take these murderers to court, sentence them and provide much deserved justice for the families. The use of this drug is at epidemic proportions and the number of deaths attributed to it is alarming and still climbing. I stood with Scott as he read the autopsy report of his firstborn seeing not one but two types of fentanyl in Scottie's system. Research shows Fentanyl the size of a salt or sugar crystal can kill. He had struggled with substance abuse but didn't deserved to die. He was given tainted drugs putting an end to his short life. So lets call it what it was. Murder. And someone should have to pay for his death with their freedom. You have the power to effect change. This law will provide consequences and repercussions where there are currently none in place. My niece, nephew and so many others have not received justice and yet those who distributed this deadly drug are free to live their lives and continue to be a menace to society. My niece and nephew will never forget getting that knock on the door from the police in the wee hours of the morning hearing the tragic and devastating news of Scottie's death. Scott has used his grief, turning it into motivation for energy to fight this battle when many may just give up and move on with their lives. But Scott has proven to be a warrior in this battle, so I implore you to join forces with him and so many others grieving the loss of their loved ones.

My sincere thanks to Delegate Chris Tomlinson and Senator Justin Ready for their amazing support in presenting this bill! The need for this law is greatly needed for the safety of our citizens. Please, put your signature of support to pass this bill. Lives depend on it.

Thank you!

Linda Lee Hickerson